Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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R 191735Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8580 INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB. PN

SUBJ: UNION TO UNION PROGRAM: OCTOBER 6 TO NOVEMBER 4

TRIP.

REF: STATE 185693; PANAMA 4718

SUMMARY: CTRP PRESIDENT DEAN BUTCHER HAS DECIDED THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON SEMINAR AND AFL/CIO CONVENTION AS PROGRAMMED. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT OSCAR ICAZA, THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED COMMUNICATIONS FEDERATION SECRETARY GENERAL BE SENT IN HIS PLACE. END SUMMARY.

1. DEAN BUTCHER OF THE CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE LA REPUBLIC DE PANAMA (CTRP) HAS RELUCTANTLY BACKED DOWN FROM HIS TENTATIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS GRANT AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. ABOVE ALL HE IS LOATH TO LEAVE PANAMA ON THE EVE OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORRIJOS REVOLUTION (OCTOBER 11). HAVING TAKEN A TRIP TO LIMA, BUTCHER FINDS FURTHER TRAVELS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE UNWISE.

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- 2. ICAZA IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE TO REPLACE BUTCHER.

 NOT ONLY IS HE ENERGETIC WITH REAL LEADERSHIP ABILITY,
 HE IS ONLY CTRP LEADER PRESENTLY AVAILABLE WITH THE
 INTERNATIONAL STANDING AND PERSONAL FINESSE APPROPRIATE
 FOR SUCH A HIGH LEVEL PROGRAM. HE IS MILITANT BUT
 RESPONSIBLE. HIS FEDERATION HAS GREATLY INCREASED IN
 MEMBERSHIP DURING THE PAST YEAR.
- 3. A SECONDARY BUT IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS THAT ICAZA'S NOMINATION WILL HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE IN MODERATING THE CONTINUING FEUD WITHIN THE CTRP BETWEEN THOSE WHO BACKED THE WINNING SLATE HEADED UP BY BUTCHER LAST JANUARY AND THOSE WHO SUPPORTED GABRIEL ROQUEBERT. ICAZA WAS ONE OF THE LOSING CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE ROQUEBERT TICKET. IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE OPPOSITION FEDERATIONS WITHIN THE CTRP, VICTORS HAVE CREATED POST OF SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR ICAZA WHICH HAS GIVEN HIM A VOTELESS RIGHT TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS.

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